

# AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 013  
(A-25)

Introduced by: Senior Physicians Section

Subject: Continued Support of World Health Organization (WHO) & United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Referred to: Reference Committee on Ethics and Bylaws

Whereas, the American Medical Association Senior Physicians Section is concerned that a withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) poses a threat to the health of United States of America citizens by limiting access to information on emerging infections in WHO member countries<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>; and

Whereas, the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID), a Congressional authorized agency, has had its funds and staff suspended, making it difficult to continue providing life-saving health programs in developing countries for disease outbreaks and epidemics for seniors<sup>6,7</sup>; and

Whereas, it is critical for the U.S. to remain a global leader in public health in order to protect the interests of Americans and provide continued guidance on reforms that enhance accountability and cost-effectiveness within international organizations, which in turn strengthens America's leadership role; and

Whereas, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works in many areas, including agriculture, economic growth, education, democracy, human rights, governance, and the environment to promote prosperity, democracy, and security worldwide<sup>8</sup>; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association opposes withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) as a continued public health threat to the U.S population by limiting early access to evolving worldwide epidemics (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA opposes any cuts to USAID (United States Agency for International Development) programs that increase the risk of infection among vulnerable populations, including senior citizens, or that withhold funding from critical initiatives supporting agriculture, economic development, environmental protection, education, democracy, human rights, and governance in developing countries. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest – between \$1,000 - \$5,000

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## REFERENCES

1. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2023, January 23). *10 things to know about U.S. funding for global health*. <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-u-s-funding-for-global-health/>
2. World Health Organization. (2025). *Preparing and preventing epidemics and pandemics*. Accessed on February 19, 2025, [Preparing and preventing epidemics and pandemics](#)

3. Park, A. (2025, February 19). *What leaving the WHO means for the U.S. and the world*. Time Magazine. [What Leaving the WHO Means for the U.S and the World | TIME](#)
4. Edwards, C. (2025, January 21). *What is the World Health Organization and why does Trump want to leave it?* . [What is the World Health Organization and why does Trump want to leave it? | CNN](#)
5. Richter, F. (2025, January 21). The U.S. Is the Largest Contributor to the WHO. Statista Website. <https://www.statista.com/chart/33800/top-contributors-to-the-world-health-organization/>
6. Hernandez, J. (2025, February 3). *What is USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development*. [Explainer: What is USAID and what does it do?: NPR](#)
7. Chuck, E. (2025, February 3). *What is USAID? How it works and what could happen if Trump and Musk shut it down*. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/what-is-usaid-trump-musk-shut-down-budget-funding-doge-rcna190441>
8. United States Agency for International Development (USAID): Economic Growth, Education, Health, Democracy, Environment, Humanitarian Aid. Accessed February 17, 2025, <https://www.usaid.gov/>

## RELEVANT AMA POLICY

### G-630.070 International Strategy

1. Our American Medical Association recognizes the importance of the involvement of the medical profession in this country in influencing the standards utilized by other nations with regard to ethics, medical education and medical practice, and the commitment to the patient-physician relationship.
2. Our AMA supports the activities of the World Medical Association (WMA) to improve health care in developing countries and supports WMA commendation of those countries that demonstrate exemplary efforts to improve health care delivery to their populations.
3. Our AMA:
  - a. continues to support the World Health Organization as an institution.
  - b. advocates full funding as understood by the United States Government for the World Health Organization.
  - c. will participate in coalitions with other interested organizations to lend its support and expertise to assist the World Health Organization.
  - d. encourages the World Medical Association to develop a cooperative work plan with the World Health Organization as expeditiously as possible.
4. Our AMA supports the position of the U.S. government to preserve the integrity of the World Health Organization (WHO) and opposes any attempts to politicize the WHO.
5. Our AMA will include the International Medical Graduates Section as a resource for international medical initiatives.
6. Our AMA will:
  - a. continue to focus its international activities on and through organizations that are multinational in scope.
  - b. encourage ethnic and other medical associations to assist medical education and improve medical care in various areas of the world.
  - c. encourage American medical institutions and organizations to develop relationships with similar institutions and organizations in various areas of the world.
  - d. work with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to ensure that medical students participating in global health programs, including but not limited to international electives and summer clinical experiences are held accountable to the same ethical standards as students participating in domestic service-learning opportunities.
  - e. work with the AAMC to ensure that international electives provide measurable and safe educational experiences for medical students, including appropriate learning objectives and assessment methods.
  - f. communicate support for a coordinated approach to global health education, including information sharing between and among medical schools, and for activities, such as the AAMC Global Health Learning Opportunities (GHLOTM), to increase student participation in international electives.
7. Our AMA will adhere to a focused strategy that channels and leverages our reach into the global health community, primarily through participation in the World Medical Association and the World Health Organization.

[BOT Rep. 21 and Res. 618, A-97; Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01; Modified: CC&B Rep. 2, A-11; Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 1, A-21]